



CMS

2025 CMS National Report

Deadline for submission of the National Reports: : 30 September 2025

Reporting period: from May 2023 to February 2025

Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions and are also requested to provide comprehensive answers, when required.

National Report format is available through the CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS), which has been successfully implemented and used by CMS, AEWA, IOSEA and Sharks MOU in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

Through Resolution 12.5 (Rev. COP14) and Decisions 14.27, 14.25 National Reports and 14.2 Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat were tasked with developing a new format for National Reports that aligns with the SPMS. However, given that the indicators of the SPMS are not yet in place, and due to the time constraints caused by the exceptionally short intersessional period before COP15, there is insufficient time to substantially amend the National Report format to fully align it with the SPMS.

The Standing Committee therefore agreed to develop a new format for the reporting period after COP15, and to use the previous National Report format for the current reporting period, with only minor adjustments. These adjustments would include a limited number of additional questions on topics that COP14 specifically requested to be reported through National Reports.

Additionally, it was agreed not to attach the full list of species in Appendices I and II for verification by Parties, as this information was collected during previous reporting cycles but could not be fully assessed and reflected in the National Reports format due to a lack of resources. Instead, the Standing Committee agreed to collect information on Range States for species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19 during this reporting cycle, in accordance with Decision 14.234.

A proposal of the National Reports format was circulated by the Secretariat to the Standing Committee members on 13 December and it was agreed through communication procedure, in line with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure.

This online version of the format strictly follows the one adopted by Standing Committee through communication procedure. In addition, as was also the case for reporting prior to COP14, it incorporates pre-filled information, notably in Sections II and III, based on data available at the Secretariat from the previous reporting cycles.

Please note that guidance is available for a number of questions throughout the national report as both in-text guidance and as tool tips (displayed via the information 'i' icon).

For any question, please contact Mr. Aydin Bahramlouian, Public Information Officer, aydin.bahramlouian@un.org

NOTICE: Before clicking on the hyperlinks in this questionnaire, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

RESOURCES FOR THE CMS NATIONAL REPORT FROM OTHER RELEVANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Convention/Agreement/Process

Information source

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

National Reports

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Annual trade reports, Annual illegal trade reports, Implementation reports

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat

National Reports, Ramsar Information Sheets

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Country reports

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

National Reports

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

National Reports

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

National Communications, Biennial Reports, Update Reports

Various CMS Family Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

National Reports

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

National Reports

Note: These reporting processes of other relevant intergovernmental frameworks are examples of information resources to be used when filling out this national report, which may assist in identification and strengthening of synergies among these processes. This list is **not** exhaustive. There are many other sources of information that may also be of relevance for migratory species, their habitats and migrations systems.

High-level summary of key messages

In your country, during the reporting period, what does this report reveal about:

Guidance:

This section invites you to summarise the most important positive aspects of CMS implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern. Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only.

Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into “high level” messages for decision-makers and wider audiences.

Please try also to be specific or provide specific examples where you can, e.g. “New wildlife legislation enacted in 2024 doubled penalties for poisoning wild birds” rather than “stronger laws”; “50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on gazelles” rather than just “lack of funding”.

The most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):

>>> The main successful aspects:

- Strategic Planning through the Malta’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

The launch of Malta’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to 2030 (<https://era.org.mt/national-biodiversity-strategy-and-action-plan-to-2030/>) in 2024 provided a strengthened framework for guiding national biodiversity policy, with direct relevance to the conservation of migratory species.

- Marine Monitoring Programme

Implementation of Malta’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Monitoring Programme (<https://era.org.mt/marine-monitoring-programme-pursuant-to-the-marine-strategy-framework-directive/>) enhanced the scientific basis for conservation. The programme includes indicators on marine litter, underwater noise, and contaminants relevant to cetaceans and turtles, thereby supporting more effective management measures for these migratory species. Further to this the updating of Malta’s marine programme of measure in 2023 under the auspices of the MSFD further strengthen actions in this regard including improving the attainment of knowledge on migratory species such as cetaceans and avian species. Moreover, the adoption of conservation objectives and conservation measures for the eighteen marine protected areas further strengthened the policy framework in this regard.

- Support to ACCOBAMS

Malta continued to actively support ACCOBAMS during the reporting period. Malta voluntary contributions to this critically important Agreement supported the organisation of training on necropsies of marine species which further strengthened the knowledge base on pressures faced by such. Moreover, Malta actively contributed towards the work on conservation actions related to addressing pressures such as marine litter, underwater noise and by-catch. Malta also successfully hosted the ACCOBAMS MOP in 2022, holding the position of the Chair of the meeting and helping to guide the deliberations.

- Protection of loggerhead turtle nests

Between 2023 and 2025, several *Caretta caretta* nests in Malta which on the island of Gozo were safeguarded through Emergency Conservation Orders. Furthermore, collaboration with NGOs and volunteers, ensured monitoring and local community involvement. The publication of the Turtle Nest Relocation Code of Practice (<https://era.org.mt/turtle-nest-relocation-code-of-practice/>) published in 2025 further strengthened national capacity to protect this migratory species and its critical habitats in full.

- Strengthened legislative and permitting framework

Amendments to the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L. 549.42 - <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.42/eng>) enhanced alignment with CMS obligations. These measures reinforced Malta’s regulatory capacity and created a more transparent and streamlined system for managing activities affecting migratory species, and their habitats. Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms were also strengthened, particularly for hunting and live-capturing, with more rigorous checks and tighter procedures leading to higher compliance rates and reduced pressures from illegal or unsustainable practices.

- Communication and awareness-raising activities:

A consistent programme of outreach activities continued fostering greater public understanding, participation and support for the conservation of migratory species (namely on bats).

The greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention? (List up to five items):

>>> The greatest difficulties:

- Marine pressures:

Impacts from marine litter, underwater noise, and ship strikes remain key challenges for migratory species in Maltese waters, reflecting wider pressures across the Mediterranean.

- Resource constraints:

Comparatively limited national expertise, as well as constrained financial and human resources, hinders the capacity to fully assess and address these threats.

The main priorities for future implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):

>>> The main priorities for the future are:

- Strengthen Legislation and Enforcement:

Ensure robust legal frameworks accompanied with consistent enforcement to provide stronger protection for migratory species and their habitats across all stages of their life cycle.

- Close Knowledge Gaps

Advance research and monitoring to improve understanding of migratory routes, population trends, and threats, providing a sound basis for conservation measures.

- Prevent Illegal Practices:

Step up efforts to eradicate illegal killing, trapping, and trade of wild birds and other migratory species, supported by effective surveillance and penalties.

- Enhance International Cooperation:

Foster stronger collaboration among range states, regional agreements, and international organisations, recognising that conservation of migratory species requires cross-border solutions.

- Promote Awareness and Capacity-Building:

Engage stakeholders, local communities, and enforcement authorities through training, education, and outreach to strengthen stewardship and compliance with conservation objectives.

I. Administrative Information

Name of the Party

>>> Malta

Date of entry into force of the Convention in your country (DDMMYY)

>>> 01/06/2001

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> N/A

Report compiler

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II. Accession/Ratification of CMS Agreements/MOUs

Please confirm the status of your country's participation in the following Agreements/MOUs, and indicate any updates or corrections required:

Yes, the lists are correct and up to date

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

Please select only one per line

	Range State, but not a Party/Signatory	Not applicable (= not a Range State)	Party/Signatory
Aquatic Warbler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ASCOBANS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Atlantic Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birds of Prey (Raptors)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bukhara Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dugong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EUROBATS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gorilla Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Andean Flamingos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IOSEA Marine Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle-European Great Bustard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands Cetaceans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruddy-headed Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saiga Antelope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Siberian Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slender-billed Curlew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Andean Huemul	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southern South American Grassland Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wadden Sea Seals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West African Elephants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western African Aquatic Mammals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III. Species on the Convention Appendices

III.1 Please confirm that the Excel file “Res. 14.19 species per Party” linked below correctly identifies the **Appendix II** species listed in Resolution 14.19 Guidance on the treatment of species included within aggregated families listed under Appendix II for which your country is a Range State.

The list of Resolution 14.19 species per Parties is available **here**.

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

GUIDANCE TIP:

During the last two reporting cycles, information has been collected on Appendix I and Appendix II species, and the information received still needs to be analyzed. Therefore, this reporting cycle only focuses on bird species identified under Resolution 14.19. This Resolution invites Parties to consider the list of Species in its Annex when preparing National Reports. This question aims at collecting information on Range States of species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19. Parties are therefore invited to review the Range State data which are available in the excel spreadsheet “Res. 14.19 species per Party”. Please confirm that the list is correct, or if amendments are needed, create a line for each species for which you wish to indicate different information from that shown in the Excel spreadsheet. Where possible, please also provide supporting evidence, such as a reference to a scientific paper. A more detailed spreadsheet with Data per countries and territories is available here as background information. The data used for these spreadsheets are based on the CMS standard references for non-passerine and passerine species, as determined by Resolution 12.27(Rev.COP14) Taxonomy and Nomenclature, using its online version HBW-BirdLife Version 9.0 (October 2024)..

Yes, the list is correct

IV. Legal Prohibition of the Taking of Appendix I Species

IV.1. Is the taking of Appendix I species prohibited by national or territorial legislation in accordance with CMS Article III(5)?

Yes for all Appendix I species

Please identify any change in the legal statute(s) concerned that has been introduced since the last reporting:

Please provide links and clearly identify the relevant statute(s) by providing the title, date, etc.

>>> • Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L. 549.42)

<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.42/eng/pdf>

Changes:

- Legal Notice 150 of 2023 (07 July 2023) – Conservation of Wild Birds (Amendment) Regulations, 2023:

Introduced updates to certain definitions, permitting procedures and ring-marking provisions.

<https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2023/150/eng>

- Legal Notice 209 of 2023 (01 September 2023) – Conservation of Wild Birds (Amendment No. 2): Updated provisions on the registration and licensing of taxidermists and movement of mounted specimens.

<https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2023/209/eng>

- Legal Notice 299 of 2024 (08 November 2024) – Conservation of Wild Birds (Amendment) Regulations, 2024: Further clarified conditions for transfer, display and storage of preserved bird specimens; aligned ERA/WBRU administrative procedures.

<https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2024/299/eng>

Other relevant fisheries legislation with indirect relevance to migratory species

• Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 425)

<https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/425/eng>

- Amendment Act No. XXXV of 2023 (17 October 2023) – Exclusive Economic Zone and Various Laws (Amendment) Act, 2023: Introduced consequential amendments to Cap. 425 (extending Maltese fisheries jurisdiction to any future EEZ). The Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 425) provides the legislative framework for the regulation of fishing, licensing, monitoring, and conservation of

naturally-occurring fish stocks in Maltese waters. While this Act does not explicitly prohibit the taking of migratory species listed in CMS Appendix I, it is relevant in that it confers powers to restrict fishing methods, ensure by-catch management and enforce compliance with conventions, thereby contributing indirectly to the protection of migratory aquatic species

• Fishery Regulations (S.L. 425.01)

<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/425.1/eng>

- Legal Notice 76 of 2024 (26 March 2024) - Fishery (Amendments) Regulations, 2024: updates various provisions in the Fishery Regulations such as modifying licensing, gear-specifications or quotas The Fishery Regulations (S.L. 425.01) provide operational controls on fishing gear, licensing and methods in Maltese waters, thereby contributing to by-catch mitigation and the prevention of unintended taking of migratory aquatic species. However, they do not themselves establish an explicit prohibition on taking of migratory species listed in CMS Appendix I.

IV.2 **Exceptions:** Where the taking of Appendix I species **is** prohibited by national legislation, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition during the reporting period?

Yes

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section IV exceptions mt 2025.xlsx](#)

IV.4. Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged in the intentional taking of Appendix I species outside of your country's national jurisdictional limits (consistent with the definition of "Range State" in Article I of the Convention)?

No

V. Awareness

V.1. Please indicate the actions that have been taken by your country during the reporting period to increase people's awareness of the values of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems (note that answers given in section XVIII may also be relevant).
(select all that apply)

GUIDANCE TIP:

Awareness raising may include actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Resolution, Res. **11.9 (Rev.COP13)** (World Migratory Bird Day), as well as a number of other resolutions and decisions which include specific provisions about awareness raising, including Resolutions Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.18** (Avian Influenza), Res. **14.17** (Communities and livelihoods), Res. **14.16** (Ecological Connectivity), Res. **14.15** (Action Plan to address aquatic Wild Meat Harvests), Res. **14.14** (CMS Jaguar Initiative), Res. **14.13** (Initiative for Central Asian Flyway), Res. **14.12** (Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea), Res. **14.10** (Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)), Res. **14.8** (Conservation and sustainable management of seagrass ecosystems), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.1** (Samarkand Strategic Plan for migratory species 2024 – 2032), Res. **12.6 (Rev.COP14)** (Wildlife health and migratory species), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **12.21 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species), Res. **11.16 (Rev.COP14)** (The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **11.31 (Rev.COP14)** (Illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife), Res. **8.12 (Rev.COP12)** (Improving the Conservation Status of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian Region), and Decision 14.194 (Ecological Connectivity), Decision 14.54 (Marine Wildlife Watching) and Decision 14.223 (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

- Campaigns on specific topics
- Teaching programmes in schools or colleges
- Press and media coverage
- Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events
- Engagement of specific stakeholder groups
- Special publications
- Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites

Impact of actions

V.2. Please provide details for the actions selected in the previous question and indicate any specific elements of CMS COP Resolutions which have been particularly taken forward by these actions.

>>> Malta continues to promote research and education on biodiversity in general, as well as in relation to migratory species. The Environment and Resource Authority (ERA), as the competent authority for Malta on this convention, has worked on several aspects in this regard, carrying out regular awareness-raising activities throughout the reporting period. These activities often took place in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for the environment, as well as with other entities such as Ambjent Malta, educational institutions such as the University of Malta, research groups, and NGOs. The main aim was to inform the public about local legislation on the conservation and sustainable use of species, alongside the measures adopted to safeguard them. Outreach actions included exhibitions, stands, and boat trips.

Information was disseminated through various channels, including press releases, media articles, brochures, guidance documents, online resources, and participation in educational programmes and courses. Biodiversity awareness was further promoted through newspaper features, television advertisements, and information panels in protected areas. A 'BioSnippets' online initiative shares short features on native biodiversity (<https://era.org.mt/topic/biosnippets/>). In addition, participation in the popular TV programme Malta u lil Hinn Minnha (<https://www.gozotv.com/programmes/malta-u-lil-hinn-minnha/>) provided weekly guided visits to protected areas, including a focus on migratory species. Informational posters on protected species—such as marine reptiles, migratory birds, bats, and marine mammals—were also produced and made available online (<https://era.org.mt/publications/>), and distributed during outreach events together with practical promotional items like cigarette butt bin keychains.

Such materials were distributed widely to all government, church, and independent schools in Malta and Gozo, to local councils, and to major environmental NGOs. ERA as national CMS Focal Point also participated in national outreach events such as the Valletta Green Festival, Genna tal-Gonna Festival, Wirt in-Natura event, as well as school activities focusing on turtles. Bat Nights also continued to be organised during this period (<https://heritagemalta.mt/whats-on/bats-moths/>).

In parallel, Malta implemented the project Marine environmental monitoring: towards effective management of Malta's marine waters, funded through the EMFAF programme (<https://era.org.mt/projects/emfaf/>). The project aimed to establish sustained environmental monitoring of Malta's marine waters to address knowledge gaps, assess their status on a continuous basis, and improve the management of human activities towards

achieving Good Environmental Status. As part of this project, an Awareness Raising Strategy on marine species that includes migratory ones (namely cetaceans and turtles) was finalised in 2025. In relation to birds, Malta carried out regular awareness raising activities during the reporting period in question. These activities targeted the public to inform all members of society about the various aspects of local legislation concerning conservation and sustainable use of bird species together with information regarding conservation measures adopted to safeguard bird species. Information was delivered through the publication of various press releases and press articles, the participation in educational programs, the dissemination of web-information, including guidance documents, and the participation in informational courses. Furthermore, innovative projects were adopted, notably BirdLife Malta's "Experiencing birds and their behaviour" project, which used colourful animation and Virtual Reality (VR) to engage younger audiences. In 2023, Malta re-launched the Conservation of Wild Birds Fund, which offered financial support to NGOs that are active within the domain of conservation of wild birds. The Fund awards up to €100,000 in grants to projects that promote conservation of wild birds. This fund emerged from commitment made by Malta during a high-level conference on wildlife crime held in March 2017 in The Hague, Netherlands. Financial support under this Fund was available for projects that directly contribute to the conservation of wild birds, in accordance with the priorities of this funding scheme such as activities that help to contribute towards initiatives related to sustainable hunting, species reintroduction programmes, species and habitats conservation, training for personnel involved in the sector, scientific research, innovation, awareness raising and educational initiatives. Under this fund, in 2023, Malta offered an additional €78,587.20 in financial support to two NGOs for projects that include research on the short-eared owl population on Comino; experiencing birds and their behaviour; the tagging and release of captive bred European turtle-doves, and the re-introduction of the barn owl into the wild.

V.3. Overall, how successful have these awareness actions been in achieving their objectives?
Tick one box

GUIDANCE TIP:

If the impact of awareness actions has been assessed by (for example) project evaluation studies or follow-up audience attitude surveys during the reporting period, those provide a basis for answering this question. If the assessment has involved any type of quantitative measure of the impact, please specify. It is recognized that such assessment studies may not always be available, in which case it is acceptable to base your answer on an informed subjective judgement. Alternatively, if there is genuinely no basis for forming such a judgement, please select "Unknown".

Question V.4 gives you the opportunity to explain the basis on which you have answered question V.3.

3. Good impact

V.4. Please identify the main form(s) of evidence that has/have been used to make this assessment.
>>> An assessment of good impact was given since there were a number of awareness-raising events (as indicated further above in this section) that targeted different audiences.

VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes

VI.1. Does the conservation of migratory species currently feature in any national or local strategies and/or planning processes in your country relating to development, poverty reduction and/or livelihoods?

Yes

Please provide details:

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe how CMS objectives are incorporated in other sectoral strategies such as transport, construction, agriculture, tourism, education, spatial planning, Sustainable Development Goals and other strategies.

>>> The conservation of migratory species is integrated into Malta's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which promotes cross-sectoral mainstreaming of biodiversity protection. In particular, Target 16 of the NBSAP commits that by 2030, biodiversity considerations will be systematically embedded into policies, regulations, strategies, and planning processes across the public sector.

Environmental assessment and permitting procedures, including EIA and SEA, also ensure that biodiversity impacts are taken into account in development strategies.

Furthermore, Natura 2000 conservation measures for both terrestrial and marine species contribute to safeguarding sustainable use of biodiversity, supporting long-term prosperity and livelihoods of communities dependent on natural resources.

Please also refer to the following links:

- <https://era.org.mt/national-biodiversity-strategy-and-action-plan-nbsap-to-2030/>
- <https://era.org.mt/topic/sea-overview/>
- <https://era.org.mt/era-topic-categories/eia-process/>
- <https://era.org.mt/era-topic-categories/applying-for-an-ep/>
- <https://era.org.mt/topic/marine-monitoring-programme/>
- <https://era.org.mt/topic/msfd-programme-of-measures/>
- <https://era.org.mt/topic/marine-protected-areas-2/>

VI.2. Does your country integrate the 'values of migratory species and their habitats' in any other national reporting processes?

E.g. Agenda 2030, reporting for International Whaling Commission, CBD, EU Nature Directives, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:

Responses to this question should be focused on the reporting processes of the country rather than on plans and regulations within the country. This question intends to understand if the values of migratory species and habitats are featured in other national reporting that your country participates in, such as reporting to other biodiversity MEAs, the International Whaling Commission, European Commission etc.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> The values of migratory species and their habitats are reflected in Malta's contributions to several international and EU-level reporting processes. These include the EU Habitats Directive (Article 17) and EU Birds Directive (Article 12) reports, which assess the status and trends of species and habitats of Community interest, many of which are migratory.

Please also refer to the following links:

- <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/>
- <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art12/>
- <https://era.org.mt/topic/msfd-assessment-environmental-status/>
- <https://era.org.mt/topic/msfd-programme-of-measures/>

VI.3. Provide some examples of significant involvements (if any) of non-governmental organizations and/or civil society in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

>>> A number of Maltese NGOs and civil society organisations play a significant role in the conservation of migratory species.

- Biological Conservation Research Foundation (BICREF) focuses on scientific research to gather data on local fauna that supports conservation action. Its work covers bats, cetaceans, and marine turtles, contributing valuable information to national and regional efforts.

- BirdLife Malta (BLM) is dedicated to the protection of wild birds and their habitats. It manages, on behalf of ERA, key wetlands such as is-Salina, I-Għadira, and is-Simar (the latter two also designated as Ramsar sites). The NGO also coordinates bird ringing, attends to injured birds, carries out seabird monitoring and conservation projects, and leads public awareness campaigns. BirdLife Malta is represented on the Malta Ornithological Committee.

- Green House Malta (GHM) runs the citizen science initiative Malta Biodiversity Monitoring (MABIMO), developed with the Belgian NGO BINCO. The programme collates new and historical biodiversity data to

inform conservation. Among its ongoing projects is long-term monitoring of bats, engaging both experts and the public in data collection and verification.

- Nature Trust Malta (NTM) undertakes conservation and management of protected areas such as Xrobb I-Għaġin which hosts a rescue centre for protected species. It is also active in the rescue and rehabilitation of stranded migratory species, including turtles, cetaceans, and bats, while delivering education, clean-up campaigns, and training.
- EcoMarine Malta operates responsible cetacean-watching tours under permits issued by ERA, in full compliance with ACCOBAMS whale-watching guidelines. By promoting eco-tourism, the organisation provides opportunities for the public to observe dolphins and whales in their natural environment while raising awareness about their conservation needs and contributing to non-intrusive monitoring of these migratory species.
- Sharklab Malta (SLM) is dedicated to research, awareness, and conservation of sharks, rays, and skates in Maltese waters. Its activities include public education and citizen science initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the importance of elasmobranchs in marine ecosystems. Notably, Sharklab Malta coordinates an oviparous shark and ray egg-case recovery and release programme, which safeguards early life stages of these species and helps maintain their genetic diversity within Maltese waters.
- Hunting organisations also contribute to habitat conservation and awareness. The Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi u Nassaba Konservazzjonisti (FKNK) assists in the administration of hunting areas of il-Miżieb at Buskett Natura 2000 site, while also holding a seat on the Malta Ornithology Committee. Similarly, Kaċċaturi San Ubertyu (KSU) manages the coastal wetland Natura 2000 site of I-Għadira s-Safra and is active in public outreach and site management.
- University of Malta (UM) contributes through academic research, student projects, and expert participation in the national cetacean stranding network. The university plays an important role in monitoring and studying migratory species such as cetaceans, turtles, seabirds, and bats, providing scientific data that supports national and international conservation reporting and management.

VI.4. Provide some examples of significant involvements (if any) of the private sector in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

>>> The private sector in Malta, particularly financial institutions and banks, has played a role in supporting conservation of turtles through the provision of funding for direct and indirect initiatives. Such contributions have helped facilitate projects and activities that benefit migratory species and their habitats, complementing governmental and NGO-led conservation efforts.

VI.5. Are legislation and regulations in your country concerning Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) considering the possible impediments to migration, transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns and migratory ranges?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please refer to Resolution **7.2 (Rev.COP14)** (Impact Assessment and Migratory Species).

Yes

Please describe any hindrances and challenges to the application of EIA and SEAs with respect to migratory species, lessons learned, and needs for further capacity development.

>>> Malta's national legislation implementing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedures - namely the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations (S.L.61) - provides a strong framework for integrating biodiversity considerations into development planning and policy formulation.

Under the EIA Regulations, where a proposed project is likely to result in significant environmental impacts including on migratory species, an EIA Report must be prepared and submitted to the Environment and Resource Authority (ERA) as the competent authority. The SEA Regulations further ensure that environmental consideration, including potential impacts on biodiversity, are integrated into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes that may have significant effects on the environment. These mechanisms collectively serve as preventative tools to identify and mitigate adverse impacts on migratory species and their habitats at early planning stages.

However, certain challenges remain in the effective application of EIA and SEA with respect to migratory species:

- Data limitation on the distribution, abundance, and movement patterns of migratory species, particularly marine taxa, make it difficult to assess potential impacts accurately during the scoping and evaluation stages.
- Limited technical expertise coupled to knowledge gaps can hinder comprehensive assessments.
- Cumulative and transboundary impacts affecting migratory species are often difficult to fully evaluate within individual EIAs or plan-level SEAs.

Lesson learned include the need for improved integration of migratory species data into baseline studies and monitoring frameworks. Strengthening data-sharing arrangements, particularly with regional agreements under the CMS (e.g. ACCOBAMS) has proven beneficial.

Further capacity development needs include the enhancement of technical capacity for ecological impact assessment specific to migratory species especially in the context of transboundary and cumulative impacts

assessment and increased awareness raising on CMS related obligations and guidance on how to effectively account for migratory species considerations in EIA and SEA assessments.

Please also refer to the following links:

- <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.46/eng>
- <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.61/eng>

VI.6. To what extent have biodiversity and migratory species considerations been specifically integrated into national energy and climate policy and legislation?

GUIDANCE TIP

Please refer to Resolutions **12.21 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), Res. **10.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), and Decision **14.207** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species) for more information.

>>> Biodiversity, including migratory species considerations, are acknowledged within Malta's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP - <https://energywateragency.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/MT-%E2%80%93-FINAL-UPDATED-NECP-2021-2030-English.pdf>), as part of the broader national policy framework, which aligns with the Paris Agreement and long-term climate and energy strategies. While the National Strategy for the Environment (NSE) has not yet been formally adopted, the NECP recognises its importance for the long term implementation of the energy and climate policy. Likewise the NECP acknowledges the value and contribution of the NBSAP to climate and energy policy. In this way, biodiversity and environmental considerations, including relevant to migratory species, are integrated as cross cutting themes in planning and implementation processes.

Further integration can be found throughout the NECP, such as in its assessment of potential impacts, which highlights the need to avoid or mitigate adverse effects of renewable energy and other climate measures on ecosystems and species. By embedding biodiversity considerations in this way, Malta's climate and energy policy framework is coherent with international obligations under the CMS and other multilateral agreements.

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

- >>> • Acknowledgement of the value of NBSAP to 2030 and the future NSE as cross-cutting policy considerations as part of the implementation of climate and energy policy framework.
- Consideration of biodiversity impacts in the NECP's plan assessment, ensuring renewable energy development takes account of ecological sensitivities, including those relevant to migratory species.

VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

(SPMS Target 3: National, regional and international governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems have improved significantly, making relevant policy, legislative and implementation processes more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive.)

VII.1. Have any governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems in your country, or in which your country participates, resulted in improvements during the reporting period?

GUIDANCE TIP:

This question is intended to understand improvements in governance arrangements in your country, which may potentially include improvements in policy, legislation, governance processes, plans etc. Please also consider the guidance below in VII.2.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Main legislative frameworks:

The Environmental Protection Act (Cap. 549) provides the primary legal framework for environmental protection and regulation, complemented by subsidiary legislation and related plans. A key subsidiary legislation is the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44 - <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.44/eng/pdf>), which governs the conservation, protection and management of species and habitats. These rules cover strict protection measures, monitoring, research and awareness, among others. As regards to birds, the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L. 549.42) set the main rules on hunting and capturing, establishing prohibitions, protected species lists, hunting-free zones, and other restrictions. Furthermore, the Reptiles (Protection) Regulations (S.L. 549.02) (<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.2/eng/pdf>) provide for the protection of and prohibition of taking reptiles including Appendix I species such as *Caretta caretta*. Likewise, the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations S.L. 549.35 (<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.35/eng/pdf>) protects marine mammals in Maltese waters and prohibits their deliberate taking, possession, sale, import or export.

Subsidiary Plans and Other Procedures:

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to 2030 (NBSAP), published in 2024, is Malta's main policy framework for biodiversity. It sets strategic priorities for conserving and restoring nature, addressing key pressures, and ensuring sustainable use of wild species, including through harvesting, capture, and killing. The plan also emphasises mainstreaming biodiversity needs across policies, raising awareness, strengthening communication and education, fostering stakeholder collaboration, and mobilising the necessary resources from all sources.).

Terrestrial Species:

In 2024, the first set of site-specific Conservation Objectives and Measures for Malta's terrestrial Natura 2000 sites (https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/ERA_Terrestrial_Natura_2000_Conservation_Objectives_and_Measures_For_Publication.pdf) was prepared and opened for public consultation. The aim is to update previous measures and provide improved guidance for managing 13 terrestrial Natura 2000 sites, including those important for migratory species.

Work is ongoing on a national strategy to eradicate the illegal killing, trapping, and trade of wild birds.

Enforcement during both autumn and spring migrations has been strengthened, with key objectives being: maintaining field presence to deter abuse, preventing the illegal targeting of protected species, ensuring compliance with open season rules, and addressing violations promptly.

The Wild Birds Regulation Unit (WBRU), the competent authority for regulating hunting and trapping activities related to birds in Malta, also focused on outreach. Recognising that some hunters travel abroad for hunting and that aviculture is growing in popularity, the WBRU provided guidance on import procedures for live and dead birds. Information was shared directly through its front desk, as well as online via the WBRU website and social media, and in effective collaboration with hunting organisations' channels. In parallel to this campaign, the WBRU conducted inspections at entry points during the reporting period, specifically at the Customs and Cargo Sections of Malta International Airport and the Sea Passenger Terminal. Noting that illicit trade and the taxidermy of illegally obtained protected birds have previously driven illegal targeting, law enforcement authorities sustained efforts to prevent, detect, and curb such practices.

Marine Species:

In 2023, Malta adopted the Conservation Objectives and Measures for Marine Natura 2000 Sites (https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MPAs-Conservation-Objectives-and-Measures_final_Feb2023.pdf), providing strategic guidance to protect biodiversity across its 18 Marine Protected Areas, which also fall under the EU Natura 2000 network and the Bern Convention's Emerald Network. The policy aims to maintain or achieve a Favourable Conservation Status for habitats and species, including migratory, and to protect seabirds in line with EU directives.

As a contracting party to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols including the SPA/BD Malta implements the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP

BIO)..

In parallel, the implementation of Malta's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Monitoring Programme (<https://era.org.mt/marine-monitoring-programme-pursuant-to-the-marine-strategy-framework-directive/>) as well as the updated Programme of Measures under the MSFD (<https://era.org.mt/topic/msfd-programme-of-measures/>) enhanced the scientific basis for conservation. The programme includes indicators on marine litter, underwater noise, and contaminants relevant to cetaceans and turtles, thereby supporting more effective management measures for these migratory species.

To what extent have these improvements helped to make relevant policy, legislative and implementation processes more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive?

3. Good contribution

Please describe how this assessment was made

>>> Assessment of the implementation of the SAP-BIO (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#ensapbio>) and the Action Plans under the framework of MAP (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#en4>).

VII.2. Has any committee or other arrangement for liaison between different government agencies/ministries, sectors or groups been established at a national and/or subnational level in your country that addresses CMS implementation issues?

GUIDANCE TIP:

There is no fixed model for what these arrangements may involve, and it is for each Contracting Party to decide what best suits its own circumstances. Examples could include a steering group that includes representatives of territorial administration authorities, a coordination committee that involves the lead government department (e.g. environment) working with other departments (e.g. agriculture, industry); a forum that brings together government and NGOs; a liaison group that links with business and private sector interests; a stakeholder forum involving representatives of indigenous and local communities; a coordination team that brings together the National Focal Points for each of the biodiversity-related MEAs to which the country is a Party (see also question VII.3); or any other appropriate mechanism.

These mechanisms may be specifically focused on migratory species issues, or they may address CMS implementation in conjunction with related processes such as NBSAP coordination, a National Ramsar Committee, etc.

The Manual for National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments may be helpful in giving further context.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Management Agreements are established for the management of protected areas under the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549). These agreements involve site managers, including NGOs, ERA and/or the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Public Cleanliness (MEEC),.

The Malta Ornis Committee, established under the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L. 549.42), advises the Government on the conservation of wild birds. Its remit includes setting parameters for bird hunting seasons; authorising derogations and monitoring their implementation; advising on conservation policy; and reviewing scientific studies and monitoring programmes. The precise functions of the Committee are described in detail in Regulation 10(6) of S.L.549.42.

A Fisheries Board established under Article 5 of the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 425) (<https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/425/eng>), brings together the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, ERA and other stakeholders to advise on the management, development and conservation of Malta's fisheries, including measures to safeguard fish stocks.

In addition, coordination relevant to CMS implementation is supported through cross-sectoral collaboration established under national marine management processes. The EU-co-financed project "Marine Conservation – an inclusive approach to Managing Marine Resources," launched in June 2024, provides an operational framework for engagement among government authorities, sectoral entities, and stakeholders involved in marine conservation and sustainable use. This structure facilitates information sharing, joint planning, and alignment of measures affecting migratory marine species and their habitats, thereby complementing existing statutory committees and strengthening overall inter-agency cooperation.

VII.3. Does collaboration between the focal points of CMS and other relevant global or regional Conventions take place in your country to develop the coordinated and synergistic approaches described in paragraphs 29, 30 and 32 of **Res. 11.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Synergies and partnerships) and in paragraph 7 of **Res. 14.3** (Engagement in CBD processes including the Global Biodiversity Framework) ?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Relevant Conventions may include other global agreements such as biodiversity-related Conventions and Agreements, UNFCCC, UNCCD, as well as regional agreements, including CMS Agreements. Such collaboration may also be relevant to aligning efforts related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and NBSAPs as described in **Dec. 14.6**(CMS Engagement in CBD Processes Including Global Biodiversity Framework) and **Res.8.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and into On-going and Future Programmes of Work under CBD).

Guidance documents for integrating considerations relevant to Migratory Species in NBSAPs are available at CMS website.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> The Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) serves as national focal point not only for the CMS, but also for other MEAs including the CBD, the Bern Convention and the Barcelona Convention amongst other relevant international frameworks. ERA can thus easily coordinate work internally before consulting other agencies or ministries, enabling streamlined preparation of positions. These arrangements produce coordinated positions and joint inputs to CBD processes including the KM-GBF and thus fully leverage synergies called for in Res 11.10 and Res. 14.3. Coordinated activities include aspects related to national reporting, harmonised work plans where relevant, joint policy development, collaborative projects and targeted liaison via advisory bodies such as the Ornithology Committee and the Fisheries Board.

VII.4. Has your country or any jurisdictional subdivision within your country adopted legislation, policies, initiatives or action plans during the reporting period that promote community involvement in conservation of CMS-listed species?

Yes

Please identify the legislation, policies, initiatives, or action plans concerned:

>>> The NBSAP emphasises a whole-of-society approach as a key pillar for its success. The NBSAP to 2030 was adopted in September 2024. Its effective implementation depends on broad participation, ownership, and collective action by a wide range of non-state actors, highlighting the importance of recognising and supporting the roles of all stakeholders in biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. Additionally, all the subsidiary plans mentioned above are subject to public consultation under Article 51 of the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549).

VIII. Incentives

VIII.1. Has there been any elimination, phasing out or reforming of harmful incentives in your country during the reporting period resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Partly / in some areas

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.

>>> During the reporting period, progress was registered in line with Target 14 of Malta's NBSAP to 2030, which aims to assess, redirect or reform incentives harmful to biodiversity by 2030. Thus, the implementation of such actions will reduce practices that may directly or indirectly incentivise pressures on migratory species.

Additional key measures include:

- The adoption of the Conservation of Wild Birds (Amendment) Regulations, 2023, which introduced a legal requirement for all taxidermists to be enrolled as paid-up members of a legally recognised organisation representing taxidermists. Such organisations must be enrolled with the Commissioner of Voluntary Organisations, have a minimum of 80 paid members, and maintain a democratically elected committee. This amendment ensures stricter oversight and accountability of taxidermists, thereby reducing opportunities for illegal possession or trade of preserved bird specimens, including migratory species.
 - o Individuals carrying out taxidermy commercially are required to hold both a valid membership with the organisation and a valid taxidermist's licence issued by the Wild Birds Regulation Unit.
 - o Individuals preserving up to 30 specimens annually for personal, non-commercial use remain exempt from the licensing requirement but must comply with existing provisions under regulation 21 of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L. 549.42).
 - o All pre-existing legal requirements regarding proof of legal acquisition and the type of specimens eligible for taxidermy remain in force.
- Enhanced enforcement mechanisms and monitoring of hunting, trapping, and maritime activities, aimed at curbing practices that could otherwise serve as harmful incentives. These incremental reforms help minimise perverse incentives, strengthen accountability, and indirectly benefit migratory species through improved compliance and reduced opportunities for illegal activities.

VIII.2. Has there been development and/or application of positive incentives in your country during the reporting period, resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Partly / in some areas

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.

>>> Positive incentives for biodiversity conservation have been gradually promoted, in line with NBSAP Target 14, with indirect benefits for migratory species. During the reporting period, measures included:

- Further integration of biodiversity safeguards into national permitting processes (2023–2025), incentivising operators to adopt more sustainable practices.
- Promotion of eco-tourism and sustainable marine practices through awareness-raising and ERA permitting conditions, providing indirect economic incentives for biodiversity-friendly behaviour.
- The 2023 amendment to the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations also provides a positive incentive by encouraging professional self-regulation among taxidermists through membership in a formally recognised organisation, fostering higher professional standards and compliance with conservation requirements.
- Strengthened compliance and monitoring frameworks, which reward adherence to biodiversity-related regulations and create a more level playing field for legitimate operators.

These steps contribute to gradually aligning policy and economic incentives with the conservation of biodiversity, including migratory species, by both reducing harmful practices and encouraging positive, sustainable behaviour.

IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

IX.1. During the reporting period, has your country implemented plans or taken other steps concerning sustainable production and consumption which are relevant for conservation of migratory species?

Yes

Please describe the measures that have been planned, developed or implemented

>>> Malta's NBSAP to 2030 addresses sustainable production and consumption through Target 9 and its actions:

- TARGET 9: By 2030, harvesting, trade, use, capturing and killing of wild species are at sustainable levels, and in line with national legislation and international obligations.
 - ACTION 9.2: The relevant legislation on trade of protected species and their specimens (dead or alive) and invasive alien species, is strengthened to enable more effective coherent implementation and compliance.
- Moreover, Malta's Sustainable Development Strategy for 2050 also addresses sustainable production and consumption, based on SDG12, including SDG Target 12.2 regarding the management of natural resources (<https://sustainabledevelopment.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Maltas-Sustainable-Development-Strategy-for-2050.pdf>).

Please describe what evidence exists to show that the intended results of these measures are being achieved.

>>> The implementation status of the various measures and milestones is assessed through:

- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to 2030:
- Sustainable Development Strategy for 2050: <https://sustainabledevelopment.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Maltas-Sustainable-Development-Strategy-for-2050.pdf>
- Updated national data regarding the implementation of SDG12: <https://sdgindicators.nso.gov.mt/12/>

X. Threats and Pressures Affecting Migratory Species; Including Obstacles to Migration

Which of the following pressures on migratory species or their habitats are having an adverse impact in your country on migratory species included in the CMS Appendices?

Guidance: This question asks you to identify the important pressures that are reliably known to be having an actual adverse impact on CMS-listed migratory species at present. Please avoid including speculative information about pressures that may be of some potential concern but whose impacts have not yet been demonstrated.

Please note that, consistent with the terms of the Convention, “in your country” may in certain circumstances include areas outside national jurisdictional limits where the activities of any vessels flagged to your country are involved.

Intentional Taking

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please note that as per Article 1(i) of the Convention, “Taking” means taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing, deliberate killing, or attempting to engage in such conduct.

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Legal hunting	Birds (Appendices I and II)	3
Illegal hunting		
Other harvesting and take		
Illegal trade	Birds (Appendices I and II) - Illegal trade of bird carcasses originating from trophy hunting and illegal trade of live birds not wearing closed rings.	3
Deliberate poisoning		

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing intentional taking?

>>> Malta aims to continue building on its present mechanisms, continue to promote zero tolerance towards the Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB) and scale up its efforts as necessary, with the aim of contributing to the international goal of Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds along the flyways.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning intentional taking?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **14.15** (Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **12.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.12 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plans for Birds), Res. **12.15** (Aquatic Wild Meat), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **11.15 (Rev.COP14)** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.16 (Rev.COP14)** (The prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.18 (Rev.COP14)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **11.22 (Rev.COP12)** (Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **11.31 (Rev.COP14)** (Illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife), and Decisions 14.148-14.150 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), 14.119-14.121 (Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean), 14.125 (Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force), Decision 14.126 (South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force).

>>> Trends show that illegal killing, trapping and trade of protected birds is present, albeit at low levels and therefore this issue continues to merit the attention of all stakeholders at national level to ensure concerted effort to actively curb IKB-related crime.

Unintentional Taking

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Bycatch	Cetaceans (Appendices I and II) Turtles (Appendices I and II) Fish (Appendices I and II) Whilst interaction of cetaceans with fisheries is an omnipresent threat throughout the Mediterranean and therefore is being taken into consideration, no bycatch of cetaceans has been reported in Maltese waters. A protection is in place in relation to turtles caught in fishing lines to ensure rehabilitation and reintroduction processes.	2
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)	Turtles (Appendices I and II)	3
Other forms of unintentional taking		

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing bycatch or catch in ALDFG?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **12.22**(Bycatch), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), and Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species) and Dec. 14.31 b) and c). Parties are encouraged to report on the implementation of the recommendation included in Drynan and Baker 2023 “Technical mitigation techniques to reduce bycatch of sharks” provided in Annex 1 to UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.1/Rev.1.

>>> Some of the most significant advances are:

- An increase in successful release programme and ongoing efforts of rehabilitation for incidentally caught turtles, supported by Malta’s national wildlife rescue centre;
- Additional funding for rehabilitation efforts as well as the establishment of a new rehabilitation centre for injured and rescued turtles;
- Increase in awareness campaigns on migratory species (as mentioned in Section V above) and the pressures they face;
- Enhanced efforts directed towards developing more innovative and engaging approaches to raise public awareness; and
- Ongoing regional cooperation under the ACCOBAMS framework to share best practices for bycatch mitigation and data collection.

Furthermore, Malta addresses incidental catch through its Marine Monitoring Programme under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Monitoring-Strategy_Mammals.pdf), which, includes the monitoring of mortality and injury rates resulting from incidental fisheries interactions on six-yearly cycles within waters extending to 25 nautical miles.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning bycatch?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please provide information on any significant trend in bycatch of CMS-listed species, notably those listed on App. I. Related to the guidance given on the overarching part of Question X.1, this is a key example where you are encouraged to think about activities outside national jurisdictional limits of any vessels flagged to your country (in addition to any other circumstances in which bycatch is a noteworthy pressure on relevant species).

>>> There are no significant negative trends since the previous report concerning bycatch.

Collisions and electrocution

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Wind turbines		
Other collisions		
Electrocution		
Vessel strikes	Turtles (Appendices I and II)	3

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing collisions and electrocution?

>>> Some of the most significant advances are:

- Increase in awareness campaigns on migratory species (as mentioned in Section V above) and the pressures they face;
- Enhanced efforts directed towards developing more innovative and engaging approaches to raise public awareness;
- Enhanced awareness and strengthened regulation of eco-tourism and recreational activities in marine areas, contributing to reduce disturbance (including from vessels strikes) for migratory species; and
- Management measures in MPAs that regulates shipping that could obstruct routes of migratory species.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning collisions and electrocution?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **7.4** (Electrocution of Migratory Birds), **7.5 (Rev.COP12)**(Wind Turbines and Migratory Species), **10.11 (Rev. COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **12.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Conservation of African Eurasian Vultures), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans) and Decision 14.48.

>>> There are no significant negative trends since the previous report concerning collisions and electrocution.

Other mortality

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Disease, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)		
Unexplained stranding events		
Accidental/indirect poisoning		
Disease		

Alien and/or invasive species

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Alien and/or invasive species		

Disturbance and disruption

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Disturbance	Bats (Appendix II) Cetaceans (Appendices I and II) Turtles (Appendices I and II)	2

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing disturbance & disruption?

>>> Some of the most significant advances are:

- Increase in awareness campaigns on migratory species (as mentioned in Section V above) and the pressures they face;

- Enhanced efforts directed towards developing more innovative and engaging approaches to raise public awareness;
- Increased awareness and regulation of eco-tourism and leisure activities in marine areas, supporting disturbance mitigation for cetaceans and turtles;
- Whale-watching permits granted by ERA under the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549), requiring compliance with ACCOBAMS cetacean-watching guidelines;
- Publication of the Turtle Nest Relocation Code of Practice (<https://era.org.mt/turtle-nest-relocation-code-of-practice/>) to further enhance Malta’s national framework for safeguarding *Caretta caretta* and its nesting sites from disturbance; and
- The implementation of conservation objectives and measures for Malta’s marine Natura 2000 sites is underway in the three offshore SAC’s designated for *Caretta caretta* and *Tursiops truncatus*. This represents an initial step toward improving the management of disturbance and disruption through increase data collection efforts aimed at establishing a robust baseline on species distribution within the SACs and thus guiding targeted management actions.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning disturbance and disruption?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **12.16** (Rev.COP14) (Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals), Res. **11.29 (Rev.COP12)** (Sustainable Boat-based Wildlife Watching), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative) and measures to mitigate threats to Important Shark and Ray Areas under Decision **14.61**.

>>> There are no significant negative trends since the previous report concerning disturbance and disruption.

Pollution

	Species/species groups affected (provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Marine debris (including plastics)	Cetaceans (Appendices I and II) Turtles (Appendices I and II)	2
Light pollution	Bats (Appendix II)	2
Underwater noise	Cetaceans (Appendices I and II)	2
Other pollution		
Fish aggregating devices (FADs)		

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing pollution?

>>> Some of the most significant advances are:

- Increase in awareness campaigns on migratory species (as mentioned in Section V above) and the pressures they face;
- Enhanced efforts directed towards developing more innovative and engaging approaches to raise public awareness;
- Ongoing national clean-up campaigns and awareness-raising initiatives aimed at reducing single-use plastics and marine litter, with active involvement of civil society and NGOs;
- Implementation of Malta’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Monitoring Programme and Programme of Measures, which includes indicators for marine litter, underwater noise, and contaminants relevant to cetaceans and turtles, thereby strengthening the evidence base for management measures;
- The implementation of Conservation Objectives and Measures for Malta’s Marine Protected Areas that were published in 2023, which include specific measures on reducing disturbance and pollution pressures affecting cetaceans and turtles;
- Strengthened enforcement of EU-wide measures restricting single-use plastics and port reception facilities requirements, which contribute to lowering the inflow of waste into marine ecosystems;
- The ongoing implementation of the national Single Use plastics Strategy; and
- Regional cooperation under ACCOBAMS and the Barcelona Convention frameworks, particularly in relation to assessing and mitigating underwater noise and marine litter.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning pollution?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **12.14** (Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory species), Res. **12.17** (Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of south Atlantic Whales), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **7.3 (Rev.COP12)** (Oil Pollution and Migratory species), and Decision **14.223** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

>>> There are no significant negative trends since the previous report concerning pollution.

Habitat destruction/degradation

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Landscape fragmentation/loss of ecological connectivity, physical barriers	Turtles (Appendices I and II)	2
Habitat degradation	Cetaceans (Appendices I and II)	2
Mineral exploration/extraction		
Unsustainable land/resource use	Turtles (Appendices I and II)	2
Urbanization	Bats (Appendix II)	2
Mineral exploration/extraction, incl. deep-seabed mineral exploitation		
Fire		
Physical barriers		

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing habitat destruction/degradation?

>>> Some of the most significant advances are:

- Continued implementation of conservation objectives and management measures within Natura 2000 sites, including actions aimed at maintaining or improving habitat conditions for protected migratory species.
- Ongoing data-collection and monitoring activities to better understand habitat use and distribution patterns of key migratory species including cetaceans, turtles and bats, supporting more informed management and mitigation of habitat pressures.
- Increase in awareness campaigns on migratory species (as mentioned in Section V above) and the pressures they face;
- Enhanced efforts directed towards developing more innovative and engaging approaches to raise public awareness; and
- An increase in successful release programme and ongoing efforts of rehabilitation for incidentally caught turtles, supported by Malta's national wildlife rescue centre.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning habitat destruction/degradation?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.6** (Deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities and migratory species) **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.12 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plans for Birds), Res. **12.13** (Important Marine Mammal Areas), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **12.24** (Promoting Marine Protected Areas Networks in the ASEAN Regions), Res. **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Habitats for Migratory species), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.18 (Rev.COP14)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **14.16** (Ecological Connectivity), and Decisions **14.148-14.150** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures).

>>> There are no significant negative trends since the previous report concerning habitat destruction/degradation.

Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Inadequate transboundary management		
Inadequate legislation		
Lack of knowledge		
Inadequate enforcement of legislation		

Other (please specify)

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details

During the reporting period, has your country adopted new legislation or other domestic measures in response to CMS Article III(4) (b) specifically addressing obstacles to migration?
 CMS Article III(4)(b) states ‘Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavor...to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species.’

GUIDANCE TIP:

This question is intended to specifically report on any new legislation or domestic measures **addressing obstacles to migration**. Relevant information would not include general conservation measures.

Yes

Please give the title or other reference (and date) for the measure concerned:

>>> Malta has strengthened its domestic framework to address pressures and obstacles to migratory species, such as the following:

- Legislative reforms of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L. 549.42) and associated legislation were carried out during the reporting period. These reforms, coupled with improved enforcement and licensing controls related to hunting and live-capturing activities, reduce obstacles to the migration of birds by curbing illegal or unsustainable practices.
- Publication of the Turtle Nest Relocation Code of Practice (2025), which directly supports *Caretta caretta* by minimizing disturbance and physical barriers to nesting and hatchling migration towards the sea.
- Conservation measures in Marine Protected Areas, which include provisions to regulate activities such as maritime traffic, tourism, and fishing gear deployment that could impede migration routes of cetaceans and marine turtles.
- Further to this the updating of Malta’s marine programme of measure in 2023 under the auspices of the MSFD further strengthen actions in this regard including improving the attainment of knowledge on migratory species such as cetaceans and avian species.

Together, these policy updates and measures aim to prevent or minimise obstacles to the migration of Appendix I species, particularly cetaceans, turtles and migratory birds.

XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

XI.1. What (if any) major changes in the conservation status of migratory species included in the CMS Appendices (e.g. national Red List category changes) have been recorded in your country during the reporting period?

“Conservation status” of migratory species is defined in Article I(1)(b) of the Convention as “the sum of the influences acting on the migratory species that may affect its long-term distribution and abundance”; and four conditions for conservation status to be taken as “favourable” are set out in Article I(1)(c).

If more rows are required, please upload an Excel file detailing a longer list of species. GUIDANCE TIP:

The emphasis of this question is on “major changes” during the reporting period. Information is expected to be provided here only where particularly notable shifts in status have occurred, such as those that might be represented by a re-categorisation of national Red List threat status for a given species (or subspecies, where relevant). Please record if any CMS listed species has become extinct or extirpated from your country - or reintroduced/re-established/established - during the reporting period (or before if not previously reported to CMS).

Please note also that you are only being asked about the situation in your country. Information about global trends, and global Red List reclassifications etc, will be communicated to the CMS via other channels outside the national reporting process.

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)

Aquatic mammals

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)

Bats

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)

Birds

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)

XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

XII.1 During the reporting period, has your country initiated or participated in the development of any proposals for new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II species?

E.g. Developments following the advice in Resolutions **12.8** and **13.7**.

No

XII.2. During the reporting period, have actions been taken by your country to encourage non-Parties to join CMS and its related Agreements?

No

XII.3. During the reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of Concerted Actions under CMS (as detailed in Resolution **12.28 (Rev.COP14)**) to address the needs of relevant migratory species?

Yes

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

GUIDANCE TIP:

If any progress report on implementation of Concerted Actions has been submitted to the COP and/or the Scientific Council in the period under consideration, Parties can refer to that report rather than restating the same information in replying to this question (please indicate the document number)

>>> In relation to cartilaginous fishes, it is noted that the entirety of Malta's marine jurisdiction falls within the Important Shark and Ray Area (ISRA) of the Strait of Sicily and Tunisian Plateau, as established at regional level through the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. This recognition underscores the ecological significance of Maltese waters for a variety of shark and ray species, including areas important for reproduction, feeding and movement. While ISRAs are not a legal designation, their identification provides a science-based framework that informs national and regional conservation measures and enhances the alignment of Malta's efforts with broader CMS objectives.

XII.4. Have any other steps been taken which have contributed to enhancing cooperation on the conservation of migratory species in ways that fully reflect a migration systems approach?

E.g. steps implementing Resolutions **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways) and Res. **12.17** (South Atlantic Whales), and Decisions 14.130 (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds), 14.137 (Flyways), and 14.207 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species).

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Please refer to the answer to the previous question and to Section XVI and Section VII.

XII.5. Has your country mobilized resources and/or taken steps to promote and address ecological connectivity and its functionality in relevant international processes?

E.g., Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision 14.194.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Malta mobilises resources and actively supports efforts to promote ecological connectivity and its functionality within relevant international processes. The NBSAP to 2030 provides strategic direction for securing and allocating appropriate financial and human resources from public, private, and international sources (e.g. Targets 15 and 20 of the NBSAP).

Malta's Sustainable Development Strategy for 2050 further reinforces this approach by promoting the sustainable management of financial resources – also encouraging private sector engagement – and by prioritising the development of highly qualified human capital to support research, innovation, and ecological resilience.

In addition to national frameworks, Malta contributes to international environmental processes and conventions, including the CMS and CBD, through assessed and voluntary financial contributions (e.g. contributions to ACCOBAMS). Malta also support international work on ecological connectivity by co-funding or contributing direct and in-kind financial support to thematic studies, reports, and expert processes that

enhance scientific understanding and inform multilateral decisions-making. These efforts help advance shared global objectives related to ecological connectivity, migratory species conservation efforts and ecosystem integrity.

XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

XIII.1. Have critical habitats and sites for migratory species been identified (e.g. by an inventory) in your country?

GUIDANCE TIP:

The CMS does not have a formal definition of what constitutes a “critical” site or habitat for migratory species. It is left to report compilers to work with any interpretations which may be in existing use at national level, or to use informed expert judgement.

Helpful reflections on the issue can be found in the Resolution **Res. 14.16** (Ecological Connectivity) and in “**Strategic Review of Aspects of Ecological Networks relating to Migratory Species**” presented to COP11 and the “**Critical Site Network Tool**” developed under the auspices of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention. For sharks and rays please refer to <https://sharkrayareas.org>. For marine mammals, please refer to <https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/imma-eatlas/>.

Partially - to a large extent

What are the main gaps and priorities to address, if any, in order to achieve full identification of relevant critical habitats and sites?

>>> The identification of critical habitats and sites in Malta has advanced through the designation of terrestrial and marine Natura 2000 sites, supported by research undertaken through various EU-funded LIFE and EMFF projects. These initiatives have provided valuable insights into species distribution and habitat use, particularly for cetaceans, sea turtles, and seabirds. Nevertheless, significant gaps remain for migratory species that occur only occasionally in Malta, where limited data on abundance and distribution makes it difficult to confidently identify critical habitats.

Comparable gaps also exist for sharks and rays. While Maltese waters fall within the Important Shark and Ray Area (ISRA) of the Strait of Sicily and Tunisian Plateau, further research is required to delineate species-specific hotspots, ecological connectivity, and functional habitats at a finer resolution.

XIII.2. Has any assessment been made of the contribution made by the country’s protected areas network specifically to migratory species conservation?

Yes

Please provide details:

GUIDANCE TIP:

The “contribution” may relate to habitat types, and/or geographical coverage/distribution factors, and/or coverage of particular priority species or species groups, and/or factors concerning functional connectivity, and/or any other factor considered relevant to the conservation of migratory species.

The “contribution” may relate to the use of the identified **Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)** (www.marinemammalhabitat.org) and support to identification of new **Important Shark and Ray areas (ISRAs)** (<https://sharkrayareas.org>).

Regarding Birds of Prey, the “contribution” may relate to the Internationally Important Raptors Sites (relevant to the range of the Raptors MOU, as sites listed in table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU).

(If you have information on assessments of management effectiveness, please do not include that here, but provide it instead in your response to question XIII.4).

>>> Conservation objectives and measures for Malta’s marine Natura 2000 sites were published in January 2023. These explicitly address migratory species, including cetaceans, turtles, and seabirds, while aligning with CMS, EU Nature Directives, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), and the Barcelona Convention.

Link: <https://era.org.mt/conservation-measures-and-objectives-for-maltas-marine-natura-2000-sites/>

Additional relevant frameworks and assessments include:

- <https://era.org.mt/topic/msfd-programme-of-measures/>
- https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/MonitoringFactsheet_D1_D4_MarineReptilesMammals.pdf
- Updates to the Conservation Management Plans and Conservation Orders for Malta’s terrestrial Natura 2000 Sites: <https://era.org.mt/press-releases/%e2%80%8bera-launches-30-management-plans-conservation-orders-for-maltas-terrestrial-natura-2000-sites/>

XIII.3. Has your country adopted any new legislation or other domestic measures in the reporting period in response to CMS Article III(4) (a) (“Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavor ... to conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore those habitats of the species which are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction”)?

Yes

Please give the title or other reference (and date) for the measure concerned:

>>> • Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L. 549.42) were reformed, strengthening controls on hunting

and live-capturing activities, thus reducing barriers to bird migration.

- Turtle Nest Relocation Code of Practice (2025) issued by ERA to safeguard *Caretta caretta* by reducing disturbance and ensuring safe hatchling migration.
- Management measures in MPAs regulate human activities (shipping, tourism, fisheries gear) that could obstruct migratory routes of cetaceans and turtles.
- 2nd cycle of Malta's Marine Programme of Measures pursuant to the EU MSFD: Malta's Marine Programme of Measures - Second Cycle - ERA
- Updates to the Conservation Management Plans and Conservation Orders for Malta's terrestrial Natura 2000 Sites: <https://era.org.mt/press-releases/%e2%80%8bera-launches-30-management-plans-conservation-orders-for-maltas-terrestrial-natura-2000-sites/>

XIII.4. In respect of protected areas in your country that are important for migratory species, have any assessments of management effectiveness been undertaken in the reporting period?

In development

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[CMS_NR_Malta_Final_SecXIII.4.docx](#)

XIII.5. Beyond Protected Areas, are other effective area-based conservation measures implemented in your country in ways which benefit migratory species?

No

XIV. Ecosystem Services

XIV.1. Has any assessment of ecosystem services associated with migratory species been undertaken in your country since the last reporting?

GUIDANCE TIP:

The phrase “associated with” migratory species allows you to report on any assessments that cover ecosystem services of systems, habitats or species assemblages that include migratory species. The question is therefore not expecting you to limit this to assessments focused solely on one or more migratory species.

For a broader biodiversity assessment to be relevant here, the migratory species involved must be making some identifiable contribution to the ecosystem services concerned.

Partly / in progress

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>> The NBSAP's Action 2.3 states: Mapping exercises are carried out for the assessment of ecosystems and their services (MAES) and the identification of ecological corridors. Significant progress has been made in implementing this action in the reporting period including the consideration of the how to incorporate ecosystems services including those related to migratory species into national MAES exercise.

XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

XV.1. Are strategies of relevance to migratory species being developed or implemented to minimize genetic erosion of biodiversity in your country?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Strategies to be considered under this section do not necessarily have to specifically address migratory species but be of sufficient relevance in relation to the objective of safeguarding the genetic diversity of wild populations.

Yes

Please select the relevant strategies (select all that apply):

Captive breeding and release

Gene typing research

Other

>>> Malta's NBSAP to 2030 safeguarding biodiversity, including genetic diversity. This is primarily addressed through Target 4, which states:

"By 2030, genetic diversity of native species, as well as species used for food and feed and their wild relatives and landraces, is safeguarded for improved resilience of biodiversity and food security."

Target 4 is supported by the following actions:

- Action 4.1: Measures for the protection of genetic resources are established and implemented.
- Action 4.2: Ex-situ conservation measures are used to safeguard the genetic diversity of endemic species, relevant protected species, species used for food and feed and their wild relatives/landraces.
- Action 4.3: The number of inventoried genetic resources in databases is increased.
- Action 4.4: Indicators and genetic methods for analysing and monitoring genetic variation in species of special concern for ecosystem services or conservation are developed and implemented, supported by scientific research addressing knowledge gaps.
- Action 4.5: Access to national genetic resources is regulated through the National Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).

Please describe the captive breeding & release strategy:

>>> Funding from the Conservation of Wild Birds Fund supported the breeding and release programmes for the Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*). This action contribute to the safeguarding of local populations and genetic diversity of priority bird species.

Furthermore, Sharklab Malta coordinates an oviparous shark and ray egg-case recovery and release programme, which safeguards early life stages of elasmobranchs and contributes to maintaining their genetic diversity within Maltese waters.

Please describe the gene typing research strategy:

>>> The Wild Birds Regulation Unit (WBRU) has issued permits to BirdLife Malta and other researchers for blood and feather sampling of several migratory birds, including the Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata* s.l.). These samples, analysed in laboratories abroad, are used for population genetics and conservation-oriented research.

Furthermore, studies involving geo-tagging of migratory birds such as the Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and the Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) have also been undertaken by WBRU and NGOs to better understand population connectivity and migration systems, indirectly supporting genetic conservation efforts.

XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

XVI.1. Does your country's National Biodiversity Strategy or Action Plan (NBSAP), or other relevant plans or strategies used in your country, explicitly address obligations under CMS, priorities for the conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and ecological connectivity?

Yes

a. Please provide a link to or attachment of the strategy/action plan

>>> https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/NBSAP-to-2030_final_compressed.pdf

b. Please identify the elements in the plan/strategy that are particularly relevant to migratory species, and highlight any specific references to the CMS/CMS instruments

GUIDANCE TIP:

Specify page numbers, section/paragraph numbers etc., where possible.

>>> As outlined in Sections VII, IX and XII, the NBSAP provides strategic direction on the management and protection of biodiversity through 22 targets and 79 actions.

The key targets and actions in relation to migratory species are the following:

Sustainable use:

- Target 9: By 2030, harvesting, trade, use, capturing and killing of wild species are at sustainable levels, and in line with national legislation and international obligations.

- Action 9.2: The relevant legislation on trade of protected species and their specimens (dead or alive) and invasive alien species, is strengthened to enable more effective coherent implementation and compliance.

Protection, conservation and restoration:

- Target 1: By 2030, 30% of Maltese land and 30% of the Maltese Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) are legally protected and form part of the comprehensive and ecologically representative National Ecological Network. As part of this effort, the management of Natura 2000 sites is strengthened.

- Target 2: Ecosystems, including their key habitats and species, are conserved, the conditions of ecosystems is known and appropriate management measures are implemented. The status and trend of key habitats and species is known and shows no deterioration, with 60% of species of Community interest, and 35% of habitats of Community interest showing a favourable conservation status, or at least show a positive trend.

- Target 3: By 2030, degraded ecosystems, in particular those with potential for climate change adaptation and mitigation, are under restoration or rehabilitation to ensure their integrity, structure, function, and connectivity

- Target 4: By 2030, genetic diversity of native species, as well as species used for food and feed and their wild relatives and landraces, is safeguarded for improved resilience of biodiversity and food security.

Invasive alien species:

- Target 6: By 2030, the introduction and establishment of new invasive species is prevented by managing the appropriate priority pathways of introduction and spread. Invasive alien species that are already established are timely identified and prioritised for eradication or control. By 2030, 50% of the most harmful invasive alien species affecting protected areas are duly managed.

- Action 6.1: The recommendations of the National Strategy for Preventing and Mitigating the Impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Maltese Islands, and related action plans for the management of priority pathways are implemented.

Pollution:

- Target 8: By 2030, pollution from all sources, inter alia, excess nutrients, pesticides, chemicals, plastics, noise, and light, is prevented, controlled or minimised to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity, in line with EU and international commitments.

- Action 8.6: Provisions related to noise and light reduction defined in conservation measures for terrestrial and marine species are successfully implemented.

- Action 8.7: By 2027, quiet areas are delineated on land while taking into consideration the harmful effect of noise on wildlife.

- Action 8.8: Suitable policy tools and a systematic monitoring regime to adequately address the impact of light pollution on biodiversity are set up and implemented accordingly

Compliance and enforcement:

- Target 21: By 2030, compliance with and enforcement of biodiversity-related legislation is strengthened to ensure more timely and effective interception and deterrence of illegalities.

- Action 21.1: By 2027, a formal multi-agency cooperation framework and a centralised system for reporting environmental illegalities, is set up to strengthen environmental enforcement and consolidate the work of environmental enforcement agencies.

- Action 21.2: By 2027, biodiversity-related legislation is evaluated and updated as necessary in order to promote environmental compliance and deter environmental crime. This may include a variety of tools and instruments to achieve the targeted compliance desired.

c. Please add comments on the implementation of the strategy or action plan concerned.

>>> ERA is currently coordinating the implementation of the NBSAP to 2030. Progress will be reported in Malta's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Successful implementation relies on ongoing cooperation from key stakeholders across all government ministries as well as sectors such as hunting, agriculture, fisheries, NGOs, private business, and tourism. Through Action 22.2, ERA is establishing an annual NBSAP Forum where governmental bodies, civil society, NGOs, and the private sector can present their initiatives, strengthen collaboration, and ensure biodiversity considerations are mainstreamed across all sectors.

XVI.2. Please provide information on the progress of implementation of other relevant action plans (single species, species group, etc.), initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work in your country that have not been addressed in previous questions.

E.g. AEMLAP, Great Green Wall, Bonn Challenge, Action Plans for Birds, Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales, Energy Task Force, Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, etc.

>>> As indicated in Section VII, Malta continues to implement a number of regional action plans and programmes of work relevant to migratory species that complement its national measures. These include the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO) as well as the Action Plans adopted under the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) of the Barcelona Convention within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan. Malta contributes to the implementation of these instruments through ongoing monitoring of priority species and habitats, the integration of action-plan measures into national marine and coastal policy frameworks, Natura 2000 site management, and continued participation in regional coordination processes under UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC. Progress is also reported regularly through national submissions to the Barcelona Convention.

The specific Action Plans implemented include:

- Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#en7>)
- Action Plan for the management of the Monk Seal (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#en5>)
- Action Plan for the conservation of bird species registered in annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#en9>)
- Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#en6>)
- Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#en10>)
- Action Plan concerning species introduction and invasive species (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#en11>)
- Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#en8>)
- Action Plan for the conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#en12>)
- Action Plan for the conservation of habitats and species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemo-synthetic phenomena in the Mediterranean Sea (<https://www.rac-spa.org/publications#endark>).

Please describe the monitoring and efficacy of measures taken in regard to these relevant action plans, initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work and their integration into delivery against other relevant international agreements.

GUIDANCE TIP:

In answering this question, compilers can provide link to relevant reports under other agreements.

>>> Updates on the implementation on these Action Plans during this reporting period are provided in Malta's national reports on the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol and SAPBIO.

XVII. Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices of Indigenous and Local Communities

In the absence of a national definition of 'indigenous and local communities', please refer to the Convention on Biological Diversity document **Compilation of Views Received on Use of the Term "Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities"** for helpful guidance on these terms.

XVII.1. During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to foster consideration for the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities that are relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

Not applicable

XVII.2. During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to promote and foster effective participation and involvement of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

Not applicable

Please provide details on the implementation of the actions concerned.

GUIDANCE TIP

Responses to these questions may involve actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans).

>>> Although Malta does not host indigenous and local communities as perceived under international environmental agreements, it nonetheless seeks to safeguard traditional knowledge through NBSAP Action 19.4: Efforts to preserve and transfer traditional knowledge, such as agricultural and fishing practices, ethnobotanical and agrobiodiversity knowledge, are supported through sponsorships and other kind of collaborations.

In addition, the Maltese government offers annual public courses on traditional knowledge themes (e.g. https://publicservice.gov.mt/en/news/buskett-education-centre?utm_source=chatgpt.com) . These initiatives encourage the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources while ensuring that such knowledge is preserved for future generations.

Please provide details on the progress made (where applicable).

>>> Not applicable. Please refer to answer to Question XVII.2.

XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building

XVIII.1 During the reporting period, which steps taken in your country have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in the area of knowledge, data and capacity building? (Answers given in Section V may be relevant)

(select all that apply)

- Education campaigns in schools
- Public awareness campaigns
- Capacity building
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Agreements at policy level on research priorities
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

XVIII.2 Please describe the contribution these steps have made towards achieving the results defined in Target 15:

GUIDANCE TIP

Steps taken may include actions, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions 14.130/14.131 (AEMLAP), 14.134 (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), 14.148-14.151 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), Decisions 14.207-14.208 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), and 14.182 (Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife).

Education campaigns in schools

>>> NBSAP Action 17.2: By 2027, environmental sustainability, including biodiversity conservation, will be further mainstreamed within the national education system.

Public awareness campaigns

>>> NBSAP Target 17: By 2030, communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA) programmes addressing a broad range of biodiversity topics are expanded, ensuring that residents are better informed and empowered to adopt sustainable practices.

Examples include:

- ERA website and social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) - <https://era.org.mt/citizen-science/>
- Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) - <https://era.org.mt/topic/maltas-chm/>
- “Biosnippets” and ERA school campaigns - <https://era.org.mt/topic/biosnippets/>
- Awareness events for biodiversity (including migratory species) (coordinated by ERA)
- ERA Awards 2025 publicity (link)
- Saving Our Blue events - <https://savingourblue.gov.mt/>
- Campaigns on turtle nesting and marine litter
- Targeted Facebook campaigns on beach and marine activities (example)
- Turtle release activities with Nature Trust
- TV programme Malta u lil hinn minnha
- Nature walks and yoga sessions

Furthermore, the BirdLife Malta project “Experiencing birds and their behaviour” developed a colourful animation and Virtual Reality (VR) station to educate and engage younger audiences on bird migration and related challenges, enhancing visitor experiences at nature reserves such as Salina.

Capacity building

>>> Aligned with NBSAP Target 18: By 2030, the role of voluntary organisations, local councils, and wider society in implementing the NBSAP is strengthened, building on previous capacity-building efforts.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> The below are some knowledge and data-sharing initiatives:

- Awareness-raising projects (e.g. EMFAF)
- Citizen science: ERA has engaged a National Citizen Science Ambassador to establish new projects and improve outreach. This supports NBSAP Action 18.1: by 2027, citizen science projects are promoted with guidelines developed to centralise and standardise collected data.

Agreements at policy level on research priorities

>>> As indicated above, a Memorandum of Understanding between ERA and the University of Malta underpins these research priorities.

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> Research by academia, research organisations and other relevant stakeholders

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ERA and the University of Malta, as well as a similar agreement with the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MSACT) were established to guide research on environmental matters, including work relevant to migratory species. These agreements ensure that academic research is aligned with national scientific and technical needs.

XVIII.3 What assistance (if any) does your country require in order to build sufficient capacity to implement its obligations under the CMS and relevant Resolutions of the COP?

(select all that apply)

- Funding support
- Technical assistance
- Education/training/mentoring
- Other skills development
- Provision of equipment or materials
- Exchange of information & know-how
- Research & innovation
- Mobilizing volunteer effort (e.g. citizen science)

XIX. Resource Mobilization

XIX.1 During the reporting period, has your country made financial or other resources available for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?

GUIDANCE TIP:

The “resources” that are relevant here can be financial, human or technical. In addition to funding, “in-kind” forms of support such as staff time or administrative infrastructure could be relevant, as could the loan of equipment, provision of data processing facilities, technology transfer, training or mentoring schemes and other initiatives for capacity building.

Yes, made available for activities within the country

Please indicate whether the overall levels of resourcing concerned are the same or different from those in the previous reporting period:

Increased

XIX.2. During the reporting period, has your country received financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?

No

XIX.3. Which are the most important CMS implementation priorities requiring resources and support in your country during future reporting periods?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please consider answers provided in HLS.3 when answering this question where appropriate, as they may be of relevance.

>>> **Monitoring, Data Gathering & Analysis:** Stronger support is needed to improve scientific monitoring. Priorities include expanding data on migratory and data-deficient species, standardising assessment methods (including AI applications), and improving information on pressures and threats. New technologies such as drones and rapid mapping can enhance habitat monitoring, while consistent stakeholder engagement, including citizen science, will be essential. Regional collaboration should focus on harmonised indicators, clear thresholds for favourable conservation status, and the regular updating of shared databases.

Research: Targeted research is required to support integrated monitoring of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and to strengthen understanding of how human pressures affect ecological responses, enabling more effective policy action.

Implementation of Measures: Key CMS implementation priorities for future reporting periods include supporting ongoing habitat restoration and enhancement, further strengthening ecological connectivity, and continuing to provide favourable conditions for migratory species through measures such as maintaining suitable breeding and roosting sites for birds and safeguarding important bat habitats. These areas will benefit from sustained resources and collaboration to ensure long-term conservation outcomes.

International Cooperation: Enhanced transboundary coordination among Mediterranean Contracting Parties remains essential for effective monitoring and conservation of priority migratory species, including sharks, seabirds, turtles, and cetaceans. Ongoing regional collaboration under framework agreements such as ACCOBAMS demonstrates the value of shared efforts and harmonised approaches to strengthen protection measures across the region.